❑ **Cleaning** contaminated porous PTFE **membranes** - by sequential immersion in dil. aq. solns. of sodium hypochlorite and **mixed** surfactants with **water**-rinse and **air** -drying.

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AN 1990-007734 [02] WPINDEX
DNN N1990-006095 DNC C1990-003343
DC A88 D25 J01 P43
PA (GORE) GORE & ASSOC INC W L
CYC 2
PI AU 8934601 A 19891116 (199002)* 11p
JP 02063530 A 19900302 (199015)
ADT AU 8934601 A AU 1989-34601 19890510; JP 02063530 A JP 1989-116202 19890511
PRAI US 1988-192442 19880511
AN 1990-007734 [02] WPINDEX
AB AU 8934601 A UPAB: 19930928
Particulate matter collected on a porous PTFE membrane is removed by separate two-stage contact of the membrane with (A) a dil. aq. surfactant mixt. comprising anionic sulphonate surfactant (I), nonionic hydrocarbyl oxyethylated surfactant (II) and anionic alkyl diamine tetraacetate surfactant (III), and (B) dil. aq. sodium hypochlorite. Either (A) or (B) may be used first, and the **membrane** is **washed** with water after the first and/or second stage, before finally drying. Opt. the usea of (B) may be omitted.

USE/ADVANTAGE - Filters made of PTFE, esp. microporous material, are widely used in applications involving removal of particulate matter e.g. dirt, lint, bacterial and viruses, from air. The inventive process provides a simple economical method for removing the accumulated filtered material to enable re-use of the filter, without impairing its throughput or efficiency.

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